

local law, and policy set forth by the Mansfield Township Police Department, and the State Memorandum of Agreement between Educators and Law Enforcement Officials.

**The Assigned Officer Shall Not Act as a School Disciplinarian**

Disciplining students is a school responsibility. However, if the principal believes an incident may be a violation of the law, the principal may contact the assigned officer, who shall then determine whether law enforcement action is necessary. Officers are not to be used for regularly assigned lunchroom duties, hall monitoring or parking lot duties. A daily assignment compromises the safety of the officers and the school by predisposing to offenders an officer's position at any given time.

The School Resource Officers have been chosen through a selection process. The Mansfield Township Police Department is confident that you will see a continuance of outstanding performance from these Officers, the Mansfield Township Police Department and the Northern Burlington County Board of Education, working together to build a safer educational environment.

**School Resource Officer(s):**

**Sergeant David Mueller** has been selected to serve as the SRO for the Northern Burlington Regional High School and Middle School. Sgt. Mueller holds a BS in Business Administration from Rowan University, where he also served as Asst. Director of Undergraduate Admissions for eight years. He has worked with the Mansfield Twp Police Department since 2001. He has prior work experience with the Sea Isle City Police Department and the Burlington County Sheriff's Department. He is a certified member of the National Association of School Resource Officers, has been the liaison between the Prosecutors Office and the Police Department for Domestic Violence, is the departmental liaison for the Domestic Violence Response Team, is Asst. Juvenile liaison for the department and serves a variety of other functions within the agency.

**Emergency 9-1-1**

Mansfield Township Police Department

PO Box 177  
190-A Atlantic Ave  
Columbus, NJ 08022  
Phone (609) 298-4411  
Fax (609) 298-6625

The  
**Mansfield Township Police Department**  
&  
The  
**Northern Burlington County Regional  
Board of Education**

**Presents**

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**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER  
PROGRAM**

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**Richard Bendel**  
*Director of Police*

**Dr. James Sarruda**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

## The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

### History:

The program was first started in Flint, Michigan in the 1950's and has since proven successful across North America. The goal is to:

- Improve police and youth relations.
- Pre-test youth attitude towards law enforcement.
- Increase positive attitude towards law enforcement.
- Reduce juvenile crime through counseling.

### The Mission:

This program is designed to assist the Northern Burlington County Board of Education and the general community in reducing juvenile delinquency. This is accomplished through a collaborative approach between law enforcement and the school system, focused on education, prevention, communication and information sharing.

A School Resource Officer may also work with community groups and associations to elicit support and address problems impacting the safety of our youth. These groups may include PTSC's, homeowners or tenant associations, community alliance associations and police community relations programs.

The program provides teachers, administrators and staff with information concerning school and community problems that affect students and their classroom performance. This can be especially helpful in allowing school and law enforcement officials to intervene at the early stages of a potential problem.

The program also provides an opportunity to educate school personnel and students about New Jersey laws and their role in society, as well as provide information about the juvenile or criminal justice system. Officers are knowledgeable about criminal law and can arrange classroom or assembly presentations on various topics.

The School Resource Officer Program encourages the growth and cooperation of dialogue between police and school officials. As law enforcement and education each become more familiar with needs and abilities of the other, it becomes easier to create programs to address student and faculty concerns.

The SRO program provides the opportunity for assigned officers to develop "stationhouse adjustment" programs for students involved in minor delinquent acts. Police officers have traditionally utilized discretion with juvenile offenders, particularly first-time offenders to resolve instances of relatively minor delinquent conduct informally.

A SRO can provide immediate action in handling trespassers. This immediate action will send a clear message that trespassing shall not be tolerated. This will provide an immediate increase in safety and security for both staff and students.

### Duties of the Assigned Officer

The duties to be performed at the school are given by the Director of Police, or his designee, through the municipal police chain of command, in cooperation with the Superintendent's designee.

Duties of an assigned officer may include, but are not limited to:

- The SRO shall act as a role model to students by demonstrating appropriate attitude, behavior, courtesy and respect.
- The SRO shall provide assistance in programs for peer mediation and leadership.

- The SRO may act a guest speaker for specialized, short-term programs involving a range of topics such as security, crime prevention, drug and alcohol education, the criminal and juvenile justice systems and related topics.
- Upon request, the SRO shall attend conferences between school personnel and parents regarding either individual students, or general security concerns.
- The SRO shall assist school personnel in dealing with safety emergencies.
- The SRO shall provide security and surveillance of the areas assigned, note and report irregularities, dangerous practices and conditions, accidents, fires and other acts or circumstances, requiring police or other action which affect the health and welfare of students and school personnel.
- The SRO shall take all necessary action as to trespassers, suspicious persons and hazardous conditions.
- The SRO shall warn, detain, cite and/or take into custody violators of the law when necessary.
- The SRO shall assist with Megan's Law notifications received by the school, as directed by the Prosecutors Officers.

### Officers are Employees of the Municipality

Although assigned to the school on a full-time basis, the police officer assigned remains an employee of the municipality and its police department. The officer shall remain subject to all rules and regulations of the police department and shall not be considered an employee of the school district. The SRO will act under the authority granted to them by Constitutional Law, New Jersey Statutes, The New Jersey Attorney General Guidelines,